



**General Law Committee Testimony
By Stan Sorkin, President
Connecticut Food Association
Tuesday, February 26, 2013
Testimony in Support of HB No. 6361**

My name is Stan Sorkin, President of the Connecticut Food Association. I am testifying in support of **HB No. 6361 An Act Concerning Fair Alcohol Pricing**

The Connecticut Food Association is the state trade association that conducts programs in public affairs, food safety, research, education and industry relations on behalf of its 240 member companies—food retailers, wholesalers, distributors, and service providers in the state of Connecticut. CFA's members in Connecticut operate approximately 300 retail food stores and 200 pharmacies. Their combined estimated annual sales volume of \$5.7 billion represents 75% of all retail food store sales in Connecticut. CFA's retail membership is composed of large multi-store chains, regional firms, and single store independent supermarkets. CFA's 90 associate members include the supplier partners of its retail and wholesale members.

The Connecticut Food Association's supports HB 6361. We believe in a complete free market. The food industry is supportive of legislation that benefits Connecticut by allowing price competition among retailers. This bill finally brings price competition to one of the only commodities—alcoholic liquor—that has been exempt since the end of Prohibition. Price competition brings lower retail prices to the marketplace and becomes an additional reason for a consumer to choose where to shop. It will help make Connecticut's retail environment competitive with surrounding states.

We believe that the bill does not go far enough. As you are aware, Connecticut's grocers can only sell beer. A change in the current beer post-off pricing policy is not included in the Bill. We believe that Connecticut's beer drinkers should be entitled to benefit from price competition just like those who purchase wine and spirits. We urge you to change the language of HB 6361 to include beer so Connecticut can be competitive in all categories of alcoholic beverages.

HB 6361 is a step in the right direction and should be approved by the General Law Committee.